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Boston, May 5, 1863.

Dear Johnson:

I have nothing special to communicate in regard to the anniversary. I do not wish or intend to make any speech during the meetings. Personally, I am tired of speech-making, and, therefore, am glad that we are apparently so near the end of our great conflict.

As for our morning meeting at Dr. Cheever's, it will suffice for me to preside - read the scriptures, the resolutions, &c. These last I will try to have ready in printed slips for the reporters, but shall have to bring them with me, as I must be absent this coming Thursday and Friday in New Hampshire, to attend a Will case in Dover. So, do not be uneasy, though you should fail to receive them by Saturday.

Weld writes me that he will try to be with us at the opening session. So the speakers can be advertised as Sloane, Weld, Purvis, and Phillips.

As for the evening session, Tilton and Phillips are secured. I have written, by advice of the latter, to our friend Gerrit Smith, to see if he will consent to be "sandwiched" between them, in a speech of 30 or 40 minutes. I have done so, because he writes me that he would like to be in New York at that time, though he hardly expects to be able to do so. His letter generally enclosed a draft for one hundred dollars, in aid of our Society.

In case he should fail, perhaps Anna E. Dickinson would consent to speak on that occasion, if needed.

En passant — is it not curious what a popular enthusiasm she has created wherever she has spoken? It is without a parallel.

If Dr. Cheever should feel like offering prayer, at our open day session in his church, it would be well to let him know it would, doubtless, be very acceptable to many. Of course, I shall not call upon any ^{one} specifically, to do that service, but he can act freely upon the usual general invitation.

I shall calculate to leave for New York on Monday morning, via Springfield and New Haven, as usual.

The Committee who are to investigate the condition of the colored population of the country have intimated to Yerwinton that they would like to have him accompany them to New Orleans to report proceedings, &c. Should he not go, he will report for us at New York. You shall duly be apprised of his decision.

It will be a great gratification to see you, and Mary Anne, and Elton, and other cherished friends again, face to face.

To the call of the Progressive Friends' meeting, I see my name is appended; but I would prefer to have ~~it~~ it omitted in the Standard, as the phraseology of the call, "our Religious Society," &c., places me in a more intimate and official connection than I have thought of assuming. True, I see Theodore's name is also appended, but I prefer to have mine quietly dropped.

Wendell Phillips will not go to England, though duly appreciating the invitation so generously extended in Mr. Cheson's letter. It would be well for you to apprise Cheson of his decision, stating that at no time has Phillips intimated any purpose of visiting England, but that you and I, and other friends, were extremely desirous to have him go, if by any invitation or persuasion we could bring it about.

Ever affectionately yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.